

III. Mailer's Assassination Home

I had no particular interest in collecting all the statements Mailer made about the JFK assassination and I made no effort to obtain copies of what he has run off at the mouth ^{with} relating to it for ~~either~~ the more than two decades that my file holds some copies of his pontifications about it that amount to self-condemnations of various kinds. These range from flaunting his determination not to soil himself with any factual knowledge of the crime to making himself part of major disinformations about it, to flaunting his ignorance about what he wrote about, to his determined carelessness in what he wrote and, ultimately, to making himself part of those powerful and evil forces he condemns. He refers to these nefarious evil forces as "the establishment" and even to "the Washington club."

What he may have spouted off about for the decade prior to ~~that~~ what I cite above I do not know and have not sought to learn. That, ~~is~~ ^{The point I make of} it is clear, is not necessary. His record of more than two ^decades is more than enough.

In 1973 I was so little interested in him or in what he said I did not even prepare a memo on our ~~own~~ conversation at that gathering of the nuts assassination nuts at Georgetown ~~un~~ University in Washington, the nuttiness of which he made himself part and which he assisted. What I did keep and file about that makes it ^{apparent} clear that if not earlier he then made it clear that he would, as he then did, refuse to have anything at all to do with any effort to bring established fact about the assassination and its investigations to the attention of the public. ^{The Public} it is his lifelong pretense he sought to inform truthfully.

As we have seen he then resolutely refused to even look at the rather large collection of FBI assassination reports I had collected and have always made freely available to all writing in the field even though I have always know^N that most ~~if not all~~ would write what I do not agree with. While he did indicate ~~a~~ a willingness to involve his literary agent in ^{helping} those of us who had no such help he did not do even that. And that would have cost him nothing at all. If it required anything at all of him it was no more than mentioning this to his agent without even the time required for making a phone call. He could have mentioned it when they were talking, as they did often.

Trying to dignify it and make it seem respectable as he told those ^{Penn} history ~~street~~ students he tried so mightily to corrupt ~~at Penn~~, he "~~decied~~ decided" ~~that~~, as Goodman wrote, "it was likely" that Oswald acted alone in killing ~~the~~ President John F. Kennedy - not from the evidence, 'which is impenetrable,' but ~~from~~ 'because I got to know his character.'" *Amateur's hinky? ESP? Or the word he likes, bullshit.*

he never knew or even saw and
 Unless we can accept that the character of a young man/long dead can be understood and interpreted perfectly by a man whose judgement it is that novels and history are the same because both are fiction ~~was~~ and who from his wisdom states both ^{are} ~~lie~~, Mailer's sole basis for ^{"deciding"} ~~believing~~ that Oswald was the assassin is his preconception - when he knew from their long, consistent and public record that no major publisher would consider a book that said anything else.

In considering this, aside from his self-exposure as a phony in all he said about his belief that the people should know the truth, it is impossible to ignore two other possibilities. One is that all along he intended his own writing on the subject and two is that he wanted nothing that could ~~affect~~ reflect on him and that writing when that time ~~came~~ came. And, as the CIA noted when he addressed those 500 of its officials in 1977, he had indicated in his Harlot's Ghost that on it there would be "more to come."

Aside from the brief note I attached to Mailer's letter to "in hesar I refer to above, there is but a single thing in my file that originates with me. That is the Washington Post I quote above on his Fifth Estate ~~pay-b~~ pay-me-to-attend second birthday party at which he announced his short-lived and totally ineffectual Fifth Estate. All else that I cite was sent to me.

While that is far from all this slack-jawed self-importance prated and wrote, always in his speaking ~~and saying~~ promoting himself, his book or both, there is a consistency in this man of soaring inconsistencies that makes it a faithful representation of both himself, his mind, his attitudes and approach and ~~in~~ his preconceived ^{and "safe"} position on the assassination.

Contrary to his posture of being a deep thinker and of knowing what he talks and writes about Mailer's clear and unchanging position on the assassination begins with ~~and remained unchangingly from~~ ^{never once ed} his assumption that Oswald as the assassin.

That was only his assumption. He had no factual basis for it and he never once even ^{ed} suggests that he did. 244

The one variable was whether or not Oswald was entirely alone, whether or not there had been any conspiracy. On that he wound up solidly with those he condemned with such vigor as "the establishment" and "the Washington Club." *If he had ever really "decided" otherwise,*

If anyone in the major media at any time or in any way reported this I have no knowledge of it, no indication of it and no reason to believe that it was done at any time or in any way.

If we seek any explanations of this the most obvious is that Mailer was the major-media's boy. On the assassination on which the major media has always supported the

official mythology, Mailer is not the daring man who says what others fear to say in his "exposures" of "the establishment."

He is it and the official mythology's running dog.

Even when he appears not to be he is that, resolutely that, ^{inflexibly} ~~determinedly~~ that.

Besides what we have seen of this, as in his futilities of those never-functioning pretenses of exposing it, like his Fifth Estate and CARIC, my file holds a few other items that bear ^{catel} heaving on this and on the kind of dedicated, resolute and widely promoted phony, this pretender, ~~world-class~~ ^{catel} this world-class, subject-matter ignoramus he remained at the time Oswald's Tales was making him more money from his undeviating endorsements of and services to the official mythology and his ~~betee e~~ betes noir, "the establishment" and his "Washington Club."

Of all the prominent writers who have been in unflagging support of this official mythology, of all those who cast themselves in the Orwellian role of controlling the past for Big Brother to control the future, the ^{only} role in which there is fame and fortune, not one competes with this self-presented ⁱⁿ ~~he~~ ^{man} Mailver Mailer ~~his~~ his decades-long and very public kissing of official ass.

This is also ~~true~~ ^{ghosting} true of his ~~harlot's~~ ^{ghosting} ~~Asssing~~ ^{ghosting} of the CIA with all its excesses that make it appear to be unfairly criticized, even persecuted, to his ^{of} giving there and praising it for its dedication to ~~demire~~ ^{and} democratic principles ~~to his praising of any of~~ its "wet jobs" ~~and~~ urging more of them on it.

For ~~him~~ him that was and remains more a harlot's ghost than Banquo's because it has not come back to haunt him.

He gets ~~we~~ away with anything and everything.

As ~~do~~ ^{of} all the darlings of "the establishment" he ~~is~~ ^{for} condemns while doing its dirty work ^{for} that it cannot do itself.

A small selection of this on the assassination follows. As in all instances, ^{in them} (he always has Oswald the assassin.

The first of these selections was when official dirty-workers, those I have always referred to as the "House assassins," ran into trouble precisely because they were doing

For all his prating about the requirements of democracy being "a clear idea of the character of events" Mailer himself spent no time on this in the more than two decades of his claimed ²¹int~~er~~est in the ~~J~~JFK assassination or in his book. He does the exact opposit^e, what he says would "maintain public apathy," the exact opposite of what he supported that committee for in himself never once doubting or even questioning the official myth^ology. And his book is based on that mythology.

In saying what really means this

what Mailer castigates as "the Establishment's" dirty deed for it.

The House of Representatives created a select committee to investigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. ^A ~~So~~ select committee has to be renewed by each Congress, which also funds it. When it was in danger of not being renewed and refunded Mailer came to its rescue. ^{March 25, 1977} As David Braaten ^{wrote} in the Washington Star, Mailer acknowledged that it had earned the trouble it was in. In a statement he sent to the Congress and to the White House (of which the Congress, under the constitution is entirely independent) he said that committee:

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...may be imperfect, impractical, ^{and} a demon for poor publicity, For all we know it may be riddled with undercover men. But it is the only investigating body we have in the House of Representatives with the obligation to subpoena recalcitrant witnesses on these matters and the duty to listen to witnesses who have studied the flaws in the Warren Commission report for years. By ~~it~~ its existence, therefore the committee represents a threat to anybody who would hope to maintain public apathy about the assassinations. ...A clear idea of the character of events of the recent past is essential to a democracy. Without knowledge of what happened in an event how can one debate its meaning?" ZGA

~~In saying~~ this Mailer was careful to stipulate that there ^{would} be no "clear idea of the character of" the "event" of the JFK assassination and that that "without knowledge of what happened" that committee would not bring to light what he said is "essential to a democracy." ZGA

He did this in what Braaten next quotes from his appeal to the House and to President Carter:

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single
space*

"If we do not know whether Jack Kennedy was killed by the demented act of an isolated man, or whether ~~it~~ by the concerted acts of a group of conspirators who employed Oswald...

thus he has the committee beginning a supposed full and open investigation with his own assumption that Oswald ^{was} the assassin. Then, in postulating that "an order came to Jack Ruby" to kill Oswald, Mailer further postulates that "order ^{came} to Jack Ruby out

of the chain of command that ran between the CIA and the Mafia.... "

What Mailer was really talking about is a phony investigation that would ~~confirm~~
confirm his "decision" that Oswald was the assassin, his preconception that it just
happened ^{to} coincided with that with which all earlier official investigations began, ^{she}
^{unproven assumption} that Oswald was the assassin. (This is reflected in the mostly previously ~~secret~~
official records with which ^I begin NEVER AGAIN! and based on those ~~secret~~ records
reprt that as soon as Oswald was killed and there thus would be no public trial of
him, on the highest levels there was a de facto conspiracy not to investigate the
crime itself. Involved in this conspiracy by those records were the man then in charge
of the Department of Justice, Nicholas Katzenbach, its deputy attorney general; J. Edgar
Hoover, FBI director; Countney Evans, an assistant FBI director who was its liaison with
the Justice Department; Bill ~~W~~ Peter Moyers, then an assistant to the ~~NEW~~ President-by-
Assassination Lyndon B. Johnson; and from the ~~disclosed~~ records of LBJ's phone conversation,
there is the possibility that the hawkiest of the Viet Nam ^a hawks of those day^s, Walt
Whitman Rostow, was also part of that cabal.)

In effect, ^{Mailer's} ~~his~~ books having so long a period of gestation, ^{he} ~~Mailer~~ was demanding that
the House assassins committee be renewed so it could lay the basis for validating what
he finally ^{birthed} disgorged as Oswald's Tale.

Whatever may have been in the minds of some of the ^House members when they created
that committee, the men they selected to run it for them began with the ^{the} Mailer/Warren
^{FBI, CIA} Commission preconception of Oswald's guilt.

Thanks to Mark Lane, ^g according to his own boasting of it, that committee chose the
former Philadelphia district attorney Richard Sprague to be its ^g general counsel and staff
^{when it was created} director. Lane claims he ^{decided on} chose Sprague and persuaded the committee to appoint him. Sprague
was, as ^{any} anything connected with Lane is ~~ert~~ ^{er} certain to be, a disaster.

After he had been swachbuckling around for sever^l week for all the world as though
he were the king of the Congress Sprague invited me to confer with him. That conference,
which lasted an hour or more, consisted of Sprague being occupied with all else, not with
asking anything of me or discussing anything with me ^{when it was known that I} or because ^I by then had acquired

more than
~~at least a hundred thousand pages~~ *official* of records relevant in his investigations of those ~~two~~ *W*
assassination, *Sprague did not, ever* even asking if any of his staff could examine them.

As I have always permitted anyone writing about those crimes to do-and to make copies of those they wanted.

A number of his assistants were in that room with Sprague when he had ~~me~~ *me* sitting facing him from the other side of his desk while he was so ostentaciously engaged in everything but what he had, presumeably, asked me to come in to do with him.

Before then I had already published five books on the JFK assassination, one on the King's, and I had been James Earl Ray's investigator *my habeas corpus* whose investigation got him an evidentiary hearing that was supposed to determine whether or not he would get the trial he never had and with that success, had conducted the investigation for the two weeks of ~~those~~ *that* evidentiary hearing before the federal district court in Memphis, Tennessee.

In the few moments he could tear himself away from what he was doing rather than confer with me Sprague made not a single mention of the JFK assassination.

Just before he did ask something of me I had decided to leave rather than continue to waste that time that way. ~~It~~ *It* had already wasted the trip to Washington and half a day for me and I was then deep into all those FOIA lawsuits I had filed -to get the information Sprague should have wanted and never did get - so I did not want to waste any more time. Preparatory to getting up and going, when for a moment Sprague was not on the phone of speaking to one of his assistants, I warned him that he was destroying his investigation and about to get himself fired. I remember clearly what I told him, if not the exact words. *It was not very long before this was recalled by* ~~So also before long~~ *one of Sprague's assistant counsel, Ken Brooten.* Brooten was a Gainesville, Florida lawyer with much experience on Capitol Hill. He then was an assistant to Texas Congressman Henry Gonzalez. Gonzalez, who was a Member of that committee ~~had~~ *He* had a leading role in getting it established.

"The Congress is a ^different world," I told Sprague. "In it you do not have the liberties and ~~authorities~~ *authorities* authority you enjoyed as the district attorney of a great city. I know the Congress. I worked for it for four years years. The way you are going it will not be long before you are cut off at the knees."

That is what

told Sprague it would

~~Before long~~ it happened just as I had ~~predicted~~. That was the easiest of predictions. It was inevitable. ^{He} ~~The~~, briefly, Gonzalez was acting committee chairman and

Brooten was its temporary general counsel and staff director.

The evening of the day it happened, before I had become aware of it, Brooten phoned me to tell me

intent single phrase

"If ever a man was ^{Merlin}, remembering the future, you were the day you told Sprague what was going to happen to him. It did this afternoon. He was fired."

Sprague had left the Congress no real choice by his conduct and by his steady flow of unjustified statements to the press that embarrassed, really demeaned the ~~Congress~~ House.

~~xxx~~ Just as I was about to bid him adieu Sprague did ask something of me. ^{still} Without once mentioning the JFK assassination he asked me to meet with some of his staff assigned to the King part of their assassination. *inquiry.*

After a couple of hours with them in a different room it was obvious that with only one exception I remember, Donovan Gay, then the committee's research director, they were all latched firmly to the official mythology of that assassination as so ~~clearly~~ clearly Sprague was ^{to} the JFK assassination official mythology. And Sprague's successor, Robert Blakely, wasted little time in firing Gay and others who displayed any interest in an independent investigation not in support of either official mythology.

instead of investigating it

assistant

The man who was most visibly determined to prove Ray was guilty of the King assassination was a ~~to~~ young former ^{assistant} prosecutor name Ozer. He was a white man who wore his ~~king~~ curly red hair in the Afro style then popular among blacks. ^{He} He was of imperial presence.

Knowing nothing other than some of the official mythology he prated what he neither ~~and~~ understood, *what he argued* knew ~~ex~~ nor was proof of Ray's guilty and he had no interest in anything else. It was not long before he articulated his and the committee's determination to make the nonexistent case of Ray's guilt.

Ray had not yet fired us as his defenders. Jim Lesar was still of his counsel and I was still his lone investigator, pursuing that work in federal district court in

Washington in ^{my} CA 75-1996. Percy Foreman, then the country's most famous ^criminal lawyer, had coerced Ray into a guilty plea. In all the months he was Ray's counsel, the ~~the~~ jail records reflected that Foreman had spent only about ten hours with him. He had spent that time ~~not~~ listening to Ray but trying to get him to cop a plea. As Foreman himself told Ray's brothers John and Jerry, he could not afford to spend any time on the criminal ^kases he took. They ~~served~~, the record confirms, to attract the attention of his profitable ^bclients in those days when lawyers could not advertise. Most of those who made Foreman wealthy were women suing their rich husbands. Not long after that futile afternoon I wasted with Ozer and the other ~~d~~ who were uneasy saying a single thing in his presence or asking any questions about the nuts and bolts of that assassination, Ozer phoned ^uesar.

As ^{Ray's} former attorney, Foreman was prevented from saying a single thing he ^{with out waiver of that privilege} had been told by Ray. Not being able to say anything at all he was preventing from saying anything he made up and said Ray told him.

Ozer phone ^uesar seeking permission to speak to Foreman.

"What for?" Jim told me ~~he~~ he asked Ozer.

"To prove ^{Ray} ~~he~~ is guilty," he told me Ozer responded.

Truthfully, if not wisely.

In all the time I spent with those ^{king-case} people of the committee's staff ^{most of the rest of that day,} there ~~was~~ ^{was} only thing I was able to get a single one of them interested in, ~~and it~~ ^{that} took embarrassing them ~~and~~ ^{and} one young lawyer in particular before I could get him to say they should look at the ^{stenoq reports} transcripts I ^{have} ~~had~~ of those ^{two} weeks if evidentiary ^{hearings} for which I had conducted the investigation and presented most of the witnesses we used.

That was the only time any alleged evidence in that assassination had been adduced ~~was~~ in any court, with cross examination by both sides and with witnesses under ~~oath~~ oath.

Finally, after much needling, that young lawyer came and borrowed ^o ^{my} these transcripts of those hearings with the evidence presented in them.

As it took much needling for that to ^{happen} ~~happen~~, it was also difficult to get those ~~transcript~~ transcripts back when the committee was ~~later~~ ^{later} shutting down.

It had ~~made~~ no use of them at all.

The evidence I ^a had produced and was in them refuted the case alleged against Ray. Proving him not guilty was the exact opposite of what that committee wanted. So it had no use for such evidence already tested as under ^y the American system evidence should be tested, under both and subject to ^{but} cross-examination.

That evidence was so clear ^{that} in denying Ray the trial he was supposedly entitled to under our system of justice, Judge Robert A. MacRae had actually stated in his decision that guilt or innocence were not material to what was before him—whether Ray had entered his guilty plea knowingly and voluntarily (and all the evidence is that he had not, had been coerced) and whether Foreman had ~~not~~ rendered him effective assistance of counsel. (Foreman had in fact neither made nor had any investigation made and he had not adduced the testimony ^{to} I, a nonlawyer was able to produce for the defense that had no funding at all. *It was an unpaid, pro bono defense.*

The House assassins did manage to lose one volume of the transcript I had loaned it. Fortunately, someone had made copies of them without returning my copies. So the volume lost was replaced by copying the copy.

Mailer had referred to the committee as "imperfect, impractical and a demon for poor publicity." To a large degree I was responsible for that.

Sprague had invited me ⁱⁿ one more time and that one time I went again. It was as much a waste of time as before. That time Jim Cesar was with me. After that second session with Sprague I was convinced he would not conduct any real investigation and decided to have no more to do with it.

When ^{Blakey} ~~Balket~~ replaced Sprague he stopped all those wild and unwise statements coming from that committee. In fact he insisted as a condition of employment that each and every ^{staff} ~~staff~~ member sign an oath of permanent silence. He ^{alone} ~~also~~ could speak to the press. The others would be fired if they did. When the hearings under Blakey began it was apparent from the first that his idea of investigating the assassination of the President was to debunk all who had written critically of the Warren Report.

All with a ~~single~~ single exception. I was that exception.

He never once mentioned my name or my published work at his hearings

Of all the many widely-published exposures of what Blakey and his committee were doing, of all the direct assaults on his and its integrity and intentions for which ^I was the unhidden source, what may have embarrassed Blakey most of all is what he did not go into when he had as a witness the late ~~of~~ Oliver Patterson, a "symbol" FBI informer.

To the FBI its "symbol informants" -it detests the word "informer," which is what ~~they~~ they all are - it is one who has ^{served} served a period of probation, usually about six months, after approval of that tryout period by FBI headquarters. From the beginning that informer, who is paid by the FBI, is identified by a symbol. The symbol is composed of *three parts, it is (four digit)* ~~an arbitrary number~~ assigned by the field office *if begins with the* ~~for which the informer works, preceded~~ by two ~~letter~~ letters that are the letters by which that field office is known inside the FBI *it ends with* and followed by another letter or letters. Thus an informer for say the FBI's Birmingham, Alabama office ~~is~~ has a symbol that begins with the capital letters BH. His number then has four digits. If he is a criminal informer these numbers are followed by the letter "C." If a politician informer, and the FBI never uses this accurate description, the letter is "S" for "security". *And during the probationary ^{period} six months* ~~the number ends symbol ends with the letter "P."~~ *precedes the concluding letter or letters*

Oliver Patterson became an informer for the FBI's St. Louis office when he was a *member, right-wing* ~~member~~ of the militant and well-armed and trained "Minutemen" who were capable of and suspected of violence. From another Minuteman who was one of its "network directors," I obtained some of their training manuals and propaganda. Under its *organizer/* ~~its~~ ^{leader} ~~Fuehrer~~, Robert DePugh, it did turn out solid information on everything from spying to shooting and making and using homemade bombs. When he was a Minuteman informer the FBI asked Patterson to penetrate the legal defense of two Ray brothers, ~~the~~ John and Jimmy. He did and he reported to the FBI on those legal defenses. That should have been enough to get both ^{cases} ~~cases~~ thrown out of court but it neither case did it.

St. Louis As an FBI symbol or official and paid informer Patterson participated in and influenced ~~city & council~~ decisions on such things as housing as the more virulent racists wanted them influenced.

But I did not know these things when Patterson became an informer for me.

That began in the most improbably and unlikely of ways - when Oliver provided transportation and company for Jerry Ray after ^{Jerry} he had been subpoenaed by Balkey's House assassins! What Jerry did not know is that Oliver had also been subpoenaed to testify before those House assassins that same trip. When Jerry got Oliver to stop off and visit me on their way there, as I had years ^{earlier} a ~~relationship~~ with Jerry, I established a ^{really} friendly relationship with ~~Oliver~~ Oliver.

They shared a ~~the~~ hotel room in Washington and when Jerry was not there Oliver stole from Jerry what he gave the House assassins that it used to embarrass Jerry and to help phoney up the case it ~~ended~~ phonying up if his and John's alleged by but entirely non-existing involvement with ^{Jimmy} Jimmy in the crime he did not commit.

Strangely Jerry did not come to hate Oliver after that. Also strangely as it then seemed but for a reason I later learned, Oliver was willing to give me a written privacy waiver so I could use FOIA to get the FBI's records on him. What the FBI gave me was not all of them, as the records it did give me proved.

^{But} What it did give me explained Oliver's willingness to become an informer for me and to give me that privacy waiver.

The FBI claims it never exposes the identity of any of its informers or sources without ^{their} their permission and approval. In Oliver's case it not only did not seek and get ^{his} its approval - it ignored his written demand that he not be exposed.

It is true, as the FBI claims, that exposure of its ~~in~~ informers can lead to their injury - even to their being killed. Oliver had a legitimate reason to ~~a~~ fear that more from the ^{Minutemen} Minutemen than from the Rays. The Ray, in fact, never even broke off from him. They remained in friendly contact.

I learned this and more from the records the FBI gave me.

They reached ^{Chicago} Chicago just as I was leaving to speak at a university in Illinois about 30 miles east of Davenport, Iowa. I ~~do~~ do not remember its name. As usual, I arranged to get there the day before I was to speak so that students, faculty members or others could if they wanted speak to me.

A blizzard and I got to that city at the same time. I had no visitors that day other

a few students from the group that had gotten the university to invite me. So I used that day to go over ^(those of its) the Oliver Patterson records the FBI had given me.

That night, despite the depth of snow and the harsh and cold wind, the auditorium was filled. In the course of my talk I began to tell the students this Oliver Patterson story. To my surprise who stood up and identified himself before all those students so many of whom were ~~black~~ black but Oliver Patterson himself!

It created a mild and unexpected sensation. If ~~there~~ any of those students suspected that I had rigged it, I had not. I was more surprised than they.

Despite the blizzard Oliver had decided to drive up and listen to my speech. He was accompanied by his then girl friend who I'd never met, Susan Wadsworth. And when the speech and the questions following it ~~was~~ were over Oliver came up and insisted that I go with them and have a drink. He drove us across the Mississippi to Davenport and to a motel with a good bath and decent food. We ate, drank and talked for several hours. Having spent several hours fighting the blizzard to get there, Oliver and Susan then drove back to St. Louis over the plowed roads still heavy with snow.

While we ate, drank and talked, Oliver added details to what the FBI's records reflected of his intrusions into domestic political and racial matters while he was a paid FBI informer. So when I was home I phoned the Washington bureau of the major St. Louis paper, the Post Dispatch. ^{It} They had already gotten some page-one stories from me, ^{He knew was} ~~They were~~ glad to borrow those FBI Oliver Patterson records. In the end they got a series of four page-one stories from them that it also syndicated, making in some instances of which I was sent copies, page-one stories in the papers that subscribed to the Post-Dispatch's syndicate wire.

And Blakey, supposed demon investigator that he was, armed with what no private citizen has, subpoena power if any agency or private person refused to cooperate, had not gotten from the FBI what the Post-Dispatch had used and more that did not make sensational headlines for it like the proof that Oliver had penetrated both day defenses and the indication that he was not alone in having done that for the FBI.

Which at least in theory was what Blakey and the House assassins were to be investigating.

That committee had had access to ^{They} Patterson in St Louis. He had access to him in Washington before he testified and when under oath he testified. But it had no interest in any real investigation and it made none so it had no interest in any aspect of what Oliver had done for the FBI that was so very wrong for it. Including penetrating the Ray defense, which could have gotten ~~that~~ those cases thrown out of court and those charged freed.

(This did happen in a Detroit case when I gave defense counsel copies of some of the Minutemen records I had gotten from my private source who was then one of its network directors. The FBI informer over whose improper activities that Detroit case ended with the ~~assumed~~ case against them thrown out of court, with those defendants freed, also, according to other Minutemen information I had, enjoyed an additional and spectacular career. The Minutemen boasted that he had been responsible for the blowing up of the Greenwich Village townhouse in which leftist and violence-prone offshoot of the Students for Democratic Action were making explosives. That Minuteman/FBI informer Larry Grathwohl merely gave them the wrong instructions and then absented himself. He later surfaced teaching police in California. I have a thick file on him and of those Minutemen records I loaned the FBI.) ~~The FBI was exposed without~~
~~any written record of this~~

now wrong instruction caused the explosion. Grathwohl

So, not without what for him was caused, Blakey did not like me.

~~He~~ ^{Blakey} began each public session with what he styled his "narration" of what the evidence adduced in it would establish. Each hearing ^{4/} ~~this~~ began with Blakey's version of what the critics he named had said. ~~He~~ could not have been more obvious in telling the country, the silent ~~Congre~~ House in particular, that he was conducting an investigation not of the crime itself but of critics and criticism of the official mythology.

Not a single reporter or media element ever reported this, obvious as it was.

Once this was apparent I was the source~~d~~ of that "poor publicity" as that committee's "game" was ^{my} being so "badly played," as Mailer had put it.

I never once asked for any anonymity. Some papers cited me as their source, some did not. But I was the source of strong and entirely unrefuted criticism of that committee in the Washington ^{Post,} ~~Post,~~ the New York Times, the St. Louis Post Dispatch and a number of other papers. 32A -

Once when ~~Blakey~~, ^{Blakey} as always, ~~was~~ ^{these} unable to respond to this widely-reported criticism of him and what he was up to, my name was used as the source of that criticism. That was when Blakey came as close as he could to making any response at all. ~~It~~ came out this way:

"Weisberg? Weisberg? ^{Can} He ~~can~~ kiss my ass."

The Post's ^{JFK} assassination expert, George Gardner, who had printed many of ^{the} ~~this~~ ~~est~~ stories critical of Blakey and the way he was running his committee, ~~phoned~~ ^{me} to ask me if I minded his using what Blakey had said verbatim. ~~I~~ I told him I thought that was fine, ~~and~~ ^{used} he ~~did~~ it, ~~verbatim~~.

So Mailer was right on ~~two~~ counts in his prepared statement and in his letters ~~to~~ to the House and to the President. That committee's was officially "the only game in town" and it was "being badly played."

We have seen a little about what kind of "game" that committee was playing, the kind of disinformational game that was intended to support the ^{assassination} official mythology ^{as} to the degree possible.

So it could continue playing that game, the ^{same} game that Mailer was playing and continued in his Oswald's Tales, Mailer did enlist significant big-name support for it. Those identified by name in Braaten Brat Braaten's story are ~~ly~~

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✓ The writers, whose names were listed in alphabetical order after Mailer's, are Robert Bly, Malcolm Cowley, Will Durant, E.L. Doctorow, Allen Ginsburg, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Richard Goodwin, Francine du Plessix Gray, John Hawkes, Shirley Hazzard, Joseph Heller, Larry King, Stanley Kunitz, Joyce Carol Oates, William Phillips, Richard Poirer, James Purdy, Dotson Rader, Muriel Rukeyser, Mark Schorer, Meyer Shapiro, Wilfred Sheed, Francis Steegmuller, Wallace Stegner, William Styron, Hunter Thompson, Kurt Vonnegut and Richard Wilbur.

This was a truly impressive representation of major writers of that ~~era.~~ ^{days.}

And the committee's ~~life~~ life was extended. With this assist from Mailer it continued its rewriting of our history, a la Orwell, and in that helped along the future prospects of Mailer's book in which he agrees with it and with the other government investigation^s in ordaining Oswald the assassin.

In his story Braaten added another part of Mailer's consistent ~~career~~ ^{days} of supporting disinformation about the JFK assassination. As was not unusual, those to whom Braaten reported he was lending his support pretended to the exact opposite, to ~~be bringing information to light.~~ ^{bring information to light.} ~~to announce that he had joined the Cambridge-~~
 "Mailer took the occasion [of ^{his} press conference in support of the ~~House~~ assassins] to announce he had joined the ~~ca~~ Cambridge-based research organization called the Assassination Information Bureau."

The AIB may have been a ⁴ bureau but it did not "research" the assassination and what it overloaded the campuses and the ~~news~~ media with was not "information."

It practised what other critics articulated, if it embarrassed the government it was legitimate and to be ^{my} sued as widely as possible, without regard ~~to~~ whether or not it was true. The AIB's speakers creamed the college lecture circuit. ~~to~~ "nobody sticking to fact could be as exciting as what they made up was. So the college wanted only them and they spent several years keeping themselves and their disⁱⁿformation going by misleading and misinforming a major segment of the college generation of those ~~year~~ years and all others they could and di^d reach.

By their excesses, by all they alleged that was neither true nor possible, they enabled the FBI and other agencies to quote them accurately and defend themselves by proving, as was child's play, that what the AIB alleged was neither factual nor in many instances even rational.

Some of those AIB young people were bright and well intended. Some thought they were but and were not. One work of fiction that was to them nonfiction was the Yankees and the Cowboys "solution" of one of the AIB's founders and leaders, professor Carl Oglesby.

But the House ^{committee} assassins was tough competition for the AIB. ^{from Cambridge, Massachusetts} It moved to Washington where it accomplished no good with either the committee or the media and where it finally came to an end, that committee putting it out of business.

^{M.A.B.} It did not assume Oswald was the assassin but with the multifaceted disinformation it had been circulating effectively for several years it became an important unofficial adjunct to the official assassination disinformationists in the government.

It did reach many and it disinformed and misled them all except on the one point, the official claim that Oswald was the assassin. But that the AIB did not agree with that part of the official mythology made their disinformation more effective. They, before and with Mailer's help, were the major source unofficial source of the assassination disinformation of that era. They were exceeded only by the House assassins in the dissemination of assassination disinformation and misinformation.

Mailer, as Braaten's report alone makes clear, was part of both of these major disinformation of that post-Vietnam Garrison era. He was part of the two major sources of what led the people to believe what was not true about the assassinations.

That was and it remained, as it had earlier been, Mailer's assassination home.

34 X jobs

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Saying that Mailer found his home is a figure of speech. He did not just find it - he had been there all along - snug in an Establishment back room. While he was seeming to berate it ^{as} seeing to it that he got all the attention possible, the more extreme his proclamations, the more attention it, ~~into~~ including his "Washington Club," gave him so that he could do for it what he ~~did~~ what it could not do for itself ^{as} ~~he did it.~~ ^{which}

As in his always stating that ~~Oswald~~ Oswald was the ~~assassin~~ assassin without even pretending until he was winding up with Oswald's Tale that he had even looked ^{we will come to the kind of death he then took, & as in} at the actual official evidence. ~~and~~ all the decades of attention he got for his ^{the way was to be killed by love he did} "decision" - his decision for him being superior the actual evidence. ^{That Oswald was the} assassin, as his Establishment and his Washington want believed.

As in his ~~great~~ great excesses about the CIA, ~~an~~ especially in his Harlot's Ghost.

(It would have been titled more appropriately had ~~it~~ it been Harlotry's Ghost.)

As in his winding up praising the CIA as the most democratic of instut^{ions} and encouraging it to more assassination. For which the ~~the~~ Times among others of ~~the~~ his Establishment lavished so much attention on him and what he then said.

And as he did in so many other matters, winding up doing ~~it~~ it all over again in Oswald's ~~Tale~~, which is actually what he did not intend, Mailer's Tale, as we shall see.

Mailer had not only then just found his home.

He'd been there all along - with his Establishment and his Washington Club.

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